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BOSTON ELECTIONS, 1899.

Voted for	Possible Vote.	Actual Vote.	Per cent of Actual to Possible Vote.	Per cent of Actual to Vote Cast for Mayor.
<i>Municipal Election.</i>				
Mayor	102,875	81,341	79.07	100.00
Street Commissioner	102,875	79,363	77.15	97.57
Aldermen	128,847	97,818	75.92	96.01
Replacing of tracks on Tremont street	102,875	77,809	75.63	95.65
Licensing sale of liquor	102,875	77,552	75.38	95.33
Eight-hour law	102,875	75,319	73.21	92.59
Councillmen	308,625	217,189	70.37	88.99
School Committee	906,080	588,407	64.94	82.13
Totals	1,857,927	1,294,798	69.69
<i>State Election.</i>				
Governor	100,491	62,086	61.78	78.13
Lieut.-Governor	100,491	61,812	61.51	77.79
Senators	100,491	60,479	60.18	76.11
Councillors	100,491	59,919	59.63	75.41
Other State officers	401,964	238,908	59.44	75.17
Representatives	200,982	112,269	55.86	70.65
Totals	1,004,910	595,473	59.26

E. H. D.

STATISTICS OF INSTITUTIONS.

First Biennial Report of the Board of Control of the State Institutions of Iowa for the biennial period ending June 30, 1899.

The first report of the new board created by the legislature of Iowa in March, 1898, with full powers of management and control over the state hospitals for the insane, the Soldiers' Home, the State Penitentiary, and the various state institutions for the blind, the deaf, and the feeble-minded, is an exhaustive, and in many ways a model, document. Its statistical tables were prepared by Dr. W. R. Patterson of the State University of Iowa, and present certain features of considerable interest. The outline of Dr. Patterson's plan, as published in a separate pamphlet, emphasizes the necessity, not always recognized, for basing all statistics on the number of persons received and discharged, and not on the total institutional population, in order

to prevent laying undue weight on a constant group of permanent cases. Re-admissions are ignored in the case of the institutions for the deaf and the blind; and re-admissions within one calendar year are not included in the hospitals for the insane. On the other hand, re-admissions to the penitentiary indicate new offences and are included in the returns.

An excellent feature in the tables relating to the occupation of inmates prior to admission is the classification of females with reference to the occupation of the head of the family, with the phrase "wife or daughter" suffixed to the title of the occupation. This system tends to an intelligent view of the social environment of the subject, and in the case of certain Iowa institutions appears to have been markedly successful; in other instances the large proportion of women classed as "domestics" shows that it has not been intelligently applied. Thus in the Mount Pleasant Hospital 90 per cent of the females are recorded as domestics; in the Independence Hospital only 7 per cent are so recorded. The deficiencies are doubtless due to the fact that the new board has been in control for a year only; the plan itself is admirable as rendering the statistics of female occupation, ordinarily quite valueless, of considerable moment. Another significant feature of the report is the table showing hereditary tendencies in those patients admitted to one of the insane asylums. Ten degrees of relationship are included in the table, and of the total of 3518 patients 1052 showed some hereditary history of insanity, and 349 had insane parents.

In Dr. Patterson's scheme for the future further entries as to the condition of parents of the patients are contemplated, under the captions, criminal, intemperate, epileptic, deaf, dumb, blind, and parents' blood relations.

Dr. Patterson's plan includes data, to summarize the titles only of his numerous tables, regarding the movement of population, the age, sex, color, birthplace, conjugal condition, education, previous occupation, and physical condition of those received, the nativity and moral condition of parents, besides special statistics as to the previous records, and condition of inmates after discharge, the causes leading to crime — as home life and bad habits; and, finally, certain tables showing the proportion of the asylum and prison population employed, and the nature of the employment. The scheme, as a whole, for the various classes of institutions treated includes forty different tables.

It may be heartily commended as a long step toward simplicity, uniformity, and scientific arrangement of institutional statistics.

In detail one may, of course, find opportunities for criticism. For instance, the classification by color, as white, black, red, and yellow, might be replaced by a racial subdivision more harmonious with anthropology, and yet simple enough to be applied by institutions' officials. The classification of the conjugal condition of the parents of inmates under the headings "happy" and "unhappy" seems hardly to promise sufficient exactness to be of statistical value. Finally the tables giving the causes of insanity, with which Dr. Patterson states his intention of doing away in the future, furnish abundant proof of the wisdom of that resolution. Among these "supposed or assigned" causes are the following: hysteria, change of home, disappointment, spiritualism, paralysis (classed as a moral influence), poor health, Christian Science, ill treatment, military service, political excitement, trouble, worry, and previous attacks of insanity.

C.-E. A. WINSLOW.

CENSUS OF CUBA.

Report on the Census of Cuba, 1899. Lieut.-Col. J. P. Sanger, Director; Henry Gannett and Walter F. Willcox, Statistical Experts. War Department, Washington, 1900; pp. 786.

Dr. Ripley in another communication has called attention to the suggestive material which the census volume on Cuba contributes to sociological problems of race. There are other features of this statistical report which deserve mention.

In the first place, the war department is to be congratulated on having entrusted the work to competent statisticians. This is a happy omen when it is remembered that neither of the editors is connected with the war department. Again, the war department and the editors are to be congratulated upon the prompt execution of their work. It is exceptional to have a census in which tables so complex are compiled and edited within a little over a year from the beginning of the field work. A change has also been introduced into the form of the volume which makes it much more convenient for the reader. The pages are octavo instead of quarto, and consequently the volume is easily handled. It raises the query whether it would not be better to have more of our census volumes in this shape. The usual quarto is forbidding and difficult to shelve.